

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079414

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 4678 ACTION STATE INFO EC CAPS BELGRADE
BUCHAREST BUDAPEST MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA WARSAW GENEVA USNATO MAR 9.

QUOTE USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, ECE, CSCE, SENV, XH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 59273; (B) GENEVA 3349; (C) BRUSSELS 3817

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS REF (A), MISSION OFFICER PASSED
NON-PAPER BASED ON PARAS 4-10 REF (B) TO EC COMMISSION
OFFICIALS KAWAN AND ZITO MARCH 9. MISSION OFFICER ALSO
CONVEYED ORALLY POINTS OUTLINED PARA 2 REF (A).

2. KAWAN EXPRESSED THANKS FOR TIMELY U.S. REACTION TO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 079414

HIS FEBRUARY 27 DEMARCHE (REF C) AND INDICATED THAT
GENERAL LINES OF COMMUNITY THINKING NOW SEEM TO BE
COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF USG, ADDING THAT COMMUNITY WILL
LIKELY AGREE TO HIGH-LEVEL MEETING (HLM) ON ENVIRONMENT,
SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC CAVEATS. BOTH KAWAN AND ZITO SAID
THAT USG'S MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY CONFERENCE
(PARA 7 REF B) ARE ACCEPTABLE TO COMMISSION, BUT KAWAN

SAID THAT COMMISSION INSISTS UPON FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PRECONDITIONS: (1) ANY HLM MUST BE HELD IN THE ECE FRAMEWORK, IN THE STRICTEST SENSE; (2) IT MUST NOT BE PRESENTED AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CSCE PROCESS; (3) ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SEEN AS NORMAL ECE PARTICIPANTS; (4) ALL ECE RULES MUST APPLY; AND (5) THE COMMUNITY MUST TAKE PART AS SUCH. KAWAN ALSO INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION TAKES A FLEXIBLE VIEW ON THE FIRST OF THE USG REQUIREMENTS, THAT OF MEETING SITE, IN THAT COMMISSION WOULD BE WILLING TO HOLD A MEETING OUTSIDE GENEVA. HE SAID IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEFINE PRECISELY WHAT IS MEANT BY A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AND ASKED WHAT USG VIEWS ARE AS TO LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION. ZITO ADDED THAT, ON QUESTION OF PREPARATION FOR HLM, COMMISSION BELIEVES JUNE 1979 WOULD BE EARLIEST DATE FOR DECISION ON HOLDING SUCH A MEETING.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, KAWAN INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION COULD AGREE TO THE INCLUSION OF TWO SUBJECTS ON AN HLM AGENDA: TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION AND LOW WASTES. HE SAID THAT, IF NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION COULD ALSO AGREE TO THE INCLUSION OF A THIRD, UNDECIDED TOPIC. HE ASKED, IN THIS CONTEXT, WHETHER USG COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO WHICH COUNTRIES IT HAS IN MIND IN ITS REFERENCE TO ATTEMPTS TO PLACE SEVERAL TOPICS ON AGENDA WITHOUT REGARD TO MEETING ALL CRITERIA (PARA 8 REF B).
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PAGE 03 STATE 079414

4. KAWAN ALSO SAID THAT COMMISSION BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WHETHER HLM COULD RESULT IN A CONVENTION ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION. ZITO SAID THAT COMMISSION COULD ACCEPT AT MOST A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION, BUT ONLY IF IT COULD BE SHOWN THAT EAST EUROPEANS WOULD RESPECT OBLIGATIONS RESULTING FROM SUCH AN INSTRUMENT; IF THEY COULD NOT DO SO, COMMISSION WOULD OPPOSE A CONVENTION. ZITO ADDED THAT AT MARCH 9 MEETING WITH SWEDISH MISSION, COMMISSION HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SWEDES ARE WORKING TOWARD SUCH A CONVENTION, JUST AS NORWEGIANS ARE DOING.

5. ZITO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE USG HAS NOT DEVELOPED A POSITION ON LOW WASTES, ADDING THAT COMMISSION COULD AT MOST ACCEPT HLM DECLARATION OF INTENT ON THAT TOPIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE WORK ON LOW WASTES BY SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS STILL HAS 2 TO 3 YEARS TO RUN.

6. KAWAN SAID THAT ALL THE ABOVE COMMISSION VIEWS WILL BE PRESENTED TO EC MEMBER STATES AT THE MARCH 13 COREPER MEETING ON POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENT HLM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT

IT WOULD BE WISE FOR THE U.S. AND THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP, IN ADVANCE OF APRIL ECE PLENARY, A COMMON POSITION ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, AND PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT HLM MIGHT RESULT IN SIGNATURE OF A CONVENTION ON THAT ISSUE. ZITO INDICATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT BRIEFLY WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA LAST WEEK, BUT KAWAN EMPHASIZED THAT PRECISE STATEMENT OF U.S. VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE CONVENTION WOULD BE HELPFUL, IF COMMISSION COULD RECEIVE THEM IN ADVANCE OF MARCH 13 DISCUSSIONS.

7. KAWAN CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING HIS APPRECIATION FOR HAVING BEEN PROVIDED US VIEWS. HE PROMISED TO BRIEF MISSION OFFICER PERSONALLY ON RESULTS ON MAR 13 MEETING. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 079414

IM ACATION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ON RESPONDING TO POINTS RAISED BY AAWAN AND ZITO (ABOVE). HINTON UNQUOTE COOPER

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